

South Dakota Library Association

The South Dakota Library Association (SDLA) is a statewide organization representing libraries, library employees, library trustees, and library supporters. SDLA provides leadership and educational opportunities, and supports its members in meeting the challenges of providing quality library service to all South Dakotans.



Sample Letter to Parents

Below you will find a sample letter outlining and explaining to parents what the South Dakota Children's Book Awards are. You are free to edit, reproduce and distribute as you see fit:

Dear Parents,

The South Dakota Children's Book Awards encourage students in grades K-5th to read and vote for their favorite books of the year. Two children's choice awards are offered for different grade levels. The Prairie Bud Award is designed for students in grades K-2nd while the Prairie Pasque Award is for 3-5th graders. Both awards encourage students to read and vote for their favorite book from a list of nominated titles. The awards are sponsored by the South Dakota Library Association, and titles are selected for their quality and potential popularity with children by South Dakota librarians and educators.

Your child can vote for South Dakota's Children's Book Awards online at school, home or in the **[Name of Local Public Library]** for any book they have read or had read to them. K-2nd grade students may vote for any of the books they enjoyed reading and feel would be deserving of the Prairie Bud award. 3-5th grade students may vote for any of the books they have read by ranking them on a 3-point scale. Each award is given to the book receiving the most votes from students throughout South Dakota. The reading of Prairie Bud and Prairie Pasque nominees officially begins in the fall with each new school year.

The South Dakota Children's Book Awards has a long history of fostering a love of reading. The Prairie Pasque Award was first given in 1987 to Ivy Ruckman for her book, *Night of the Twisters*. Other winners include Phyllis Reynolds Naylor for *Shiloh*, David Pateneau for *Someone Was Watching*, and Louis Sachar for *Holes*. The Prairie Bud Award was created by the Prairie Valley Reading Council and has been given annually since 1998. The Prairie Bud Award was first given to Patricia Rae Wolff for her book, *Toll-Bridge Troll*. Other winners include Bill Grossman for *My Little Sister Ate One Hare* and Joan Steiner for *Look-Alikes*.

Awards voting begins October 1 and concludes April 1. Winning titles are announced during National Library Week in April. A list of nominated titles for each award is attached. The books are available at our school library and the **[Name of Local Public Library]**. Please, encourage your child to help select the best children's book of the year in South Dakota by reading Prairie Pasque or Prairie Bud Award books. To cast an online ballot at home, visit the **[SDSL Ballot URL]**. If you have any questions, please, contact me at **[Your Name and Phone Number/Email]**.

**South Dakota Library
Association**

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